

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00364 140925Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 INR-05  
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 EA-06 PA-01 DODE-00 PM-03 SP-02  
/039 W

-----098511 140932Z /10

O P 140730Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4136  
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEH PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY  
USLO PEKING PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0364

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, MU, CH  
SUBJECT: OMAN/PRC RELATIONS

REF (A) 77 STATE 054038 NOTAL, (B) 77 JIDDA 2061 NOTAL,  
(C) 77 JIDDA 2882 NOTAL, (D) 77 MUSCAT 0655 NOTAL

1. FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY AL-ALAWI, WHO IS PRESENTLY SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER IN COUNTRY, SUMMONED ME MARCH 13 TO INFORM ME OMAN INTENDS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IS PLANNED FOR MARCH 20 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER. HE SAID THIS DECISION COMES AFTER CONSIDERABLE NEGOTIATIONS OVER PAST SIX MONTHS AND THAT RELATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED THROUGH NON-RESIDENT AMBASSADORS, PERHAPS THROUGH PRC AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN AND OMANI AMBASSADOR IN ISLAMABAD.

2. AL-ALAWI SAID OMANGOV BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE THUS TO RECOGNIZE IMPORTANT ROLE OF PRC ON WORLD SCENE AND IS  
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SATISFIED DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION WILL HAVE NO ADVERSE EFFECTS FOR OMAN. HE NOTED PRC BEGAN TO CEASE ITS SUPPORT FOR PFLO IN DHOFAR AS EARLY AS 1971 AND BY 1973 HAD CURTAILED ASSISTANCE ENTIRELY. HE STATED OMAN HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY STATEMENTS OF PRC OFFICIALS DURING VISIT TO PEKING LAST YEAR BY FORMER YARG PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI, I.E. REGARDING ITS ATTITUDES TOWARD MIDDLE EAST. HE

ALSO SAID OMANGOV REGARDS THIS STEP VIS-A-VIS PRC AS  
USEFUL IN CUNTERING SOVIET AMBITIONS.

3. UNDERSECRETARY STATED USG IS ONLY FOREIGN COUNTRY  
BEING INFORMED OF OMAN'S PLANS AT THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH  
IRANIAN GOVERNMENT KNOWS ABOUT OMAN/PRC DISCUSSIONS  
OVER RECENT MONTHS. HE SAID OMAN WILL INFORM SAUDI GOV-  
ERNMENT AS SOON AS FONMIN PRINCE SAUD IS AVAILABLE AND  
THAT THIS FACTOR COULD NECESSITATE SLIGHT DELAY IN PRO-  
POSED MARACH 20 ANNOUNCEMENT. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER,  
THAT OMAN INTENDS GO AHEAD WITH PRC RELATIONS REGARDLESS  
OF WHAT VIEWS SAUDIS MAY EXPRESS.

4. AL-ALAWI, RECALLING DISCUSSIONS OF SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON  
EARLY LAST YEAR (REFTEL A), SAID OMANGOV WOULD  
WELCOME ANY COMMENTS WASHINGTON MIGHT HAVE.

5. I ASKED WHAT THIS WOULD MEAN FOR ROC TRADE OFFICE  
ESTABLISHED LAST MARCH. AL-ALAWI REPLIED IT WOULD BE  
CLOSED AND CHINESE PERSONNEL WOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING  
URGENTLY ANY VIEWS DEPARTMENT MAY WISH ME TO CONVEY TO  
AL-ALAWI OR, SHOULD HE RETURN TO COUNTRY IN NEXT FEW DAYS,  
TO FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 14 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, MU, CH  
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